A TRUE RELATION

OF THE GREAT

Thunder, Lightning, Rain,

GREAT VVIND,

AND

Prodigious HAIL,

That Happened at

ALVANLEY

In the Parish of *Frodsham* in

CHESHIRE;

On Sunday the 19th day of *June*. 1687. As it was sent to a Merchant in *London*.

Alvandley this 18th of *July* 1687.

Loving Cousin,

I *Have not received one Line from thee, since thy last going to* London: *But Cousin* Elizabeth Birdsey *told me of thy dangerous Sickness, for which I am much troubled, but shall be glad to hear of thy perfect Recovery to Health again. God grant that all Afflictions we meet with in this vale of Tears or Transitory Life, may be a means to draw us nearer himself, who only can help, support, and strengthen our Infirmities. I hope these Lines will find thee better Recovered.*

I was

I was desired by our Neighbour Jeremiah Leech, *(whose kind Love is herein remembred to thee) to send thee a Copy of the Relation of that remarkable Accident, which by the disposing hand of God, happened with us at* Alvandley *the* 19th *of* June *last past, to the great damage of our Corn, Houses, Cattle, Meadowing and Fruits, which was occasioned by the Wind and Prodigious Hail, which may appear by the following Relation, which he the said* J. Leech *is very desirous may be committed to the Press, that all might have a true accompt of it, and desired me, to request thee to do it, that for time to come it may be known and kept in mind how the Lord hath dealt with us in his Judgments in this kind, which were wonderfully mixt with Mercy to us, in preserving our Lives, when much Cattel hardly escaped, being bruised, and hurt, and cut, till blood ran down them, as appears by the Relation following, which is a true Account how it was; I being an Eye-witness, and had a share of it. So with mine, and Brothers kind Love to thee, wishing thy good health, and to hear from thee, I rest*

Thy assured Loving Kinsman,

Nathaniel Bushell.

The Copy as it was Directed to Sir John Arderne, *take as followeth.*

Right Worshipful,

WE your distressed Tenants in *Alvandley*, do Certifie unto you, how it hath pleased Almighty God to shew his great Power, in that terrible storm of Thunder, Lightning, Rain, great Wind and Hail, that lighted on us, your Worships distressed Tennants in *Alvandley* the 19th of *June* 1687. But we are not able to express the terribleness of it in full, being too apt to forget, like *Pharoah* of Old; but seeing it hath left such memorable Monuments of the destructiveness of it, all the beholders have stood amazed at it, fetching Tears from the Eyes of the Tender-hearted, many having come far to see it, and said, if it had been attested to them upon Oath how destructive it was, they could not have believed it had been so, till they came to see it.

May it please you, That after great Lightning, Thunder and Rain, there arose a great terrible Wind, which brought with it the great Hail in abundance, which at the first dash broke all our Glass Windows that were on the South-West sides of our Houses, the Wind at that instant coming from thence upon us; and issued a flashing Fire, that accompanied with great Thunder, the Hail came with great violence, and had sharp Ends and Edges like broken Ice, Cutting, Smiting, and driving down all tops of Trees and young Plants, and cut the Backs of our Kine, till Blood issued therefrom, and bruised the Elders and Paps, and wonderfully affrighted them, that they ran as if they had been Mad, leaping out of their Pastures, some into Pits and were almost drowned; some people that were out of Doors were ill beaten and bruised ere they could get to shelter themselves, that to our knowledge their flesh was as black as pots, and scarce able to go. Although praised be God, he in his infinite Mercy spared both Man and Beast alive, which is no small wonder, for it killed flying Fowl, both Crows and Pyes, and other Fowl. Several of our Buildings were Shattered and Battered by it; and the Roofs of both Thatch and Slate torn and uncovered: some Walls both Timber and Stone driven down; the Windmill was blown and driven down; nay, which is most remarkable, it broke strong sound Trees of a great substance off in the middle, and blew down very many

fruit

fruit Trees, and deſtroyed all the Fruits, the which were abundance before the Storm was; and did ſo cut and bruiſe all ſorts of Fruit Trees and other Trees, that we think they will hardly get recovery, the Hail-ſtones being many of them ſharp, that they ſlit the Bark of Trees as if done with a Knife: if any Apple be left, it ſeems as if it were cut with a Knife. All our Gardens, Plants, and Flowers are deſtroyed but what were within Ground; our Hedges and Quickſets are pill'd, ſo as the Leaf and Bark is not left.

But we may ſay this is little in Compariſon of the loſs of our Corn in every ſort of Grain, which was Smitten very terrible, *viz.* Wheat, Rye, Barly, Oates, Peaſe, Beans, *French*-Wheat, with our Flax and Hemp; in a Word, all was by the ſaid Storm of Hail deſtroyed, ſo that ſome have Plowed it up where their Corn was, and Sowed it again; ſome have Plowed it for Summer work, and ſome have turned their Cattle into their Corn Fields, and ſome others let it lie, to ſee what the Lord will be pleaſed to do with it.

The Tythe-Corn of the Town, that uſually hath been Let from 25 to 26 *l.* and ſometimes at 30 *l.* the Morning after the Storm, none would have given 1 *l.* for it: The loſs of our Meadowing is not a whit behind the reſt: To the great Damage of the Town; moſt of the Town Folk being Daries; the Graſs was Beaten and Battered as if pounded in a Mortar, ſo that there is little left, and what between, the Sap of Trees, Corn and Graſs. Our Pits and Ditches are Dyed like Tanners Bark-Pits. We heard that our Neighbouring Townsmen were ſo ſorry for us, that one ſaid he would (if the reſt would do likewiſe) give us a Load of Hay for relief of our Cattle.

The Hail and Wind continued about half an hour; the Hail-ſtones were of divers ſhapes, ſome with ſharp Ends and Edges, and like your Smiths Cynders, ſome ſay there were of 8 or 9 Inches about; but we were ſo affrighted that Night we did not regard to meaſure them, but next day there was meaſured that were 5 Inches about, and on the *Friday* following which was 5 days after, there was found in old Thatch, Hail that was 5 Inches about, we cannot expreſs our loſs, ſuſtained by the ſaid Wind and Hail; there was ſuch abundance of it, and it beat mightily into our Houſes, that our Old Corn, Cheeſe, Meat, Bedding, and other houſhold Goods received great Damage by it, all the ſubſtance of the Storm lighted on our Village, as it afterwards appeared, for that way the Storm drove it paſſed by the Neighbouring Towns, the Hill being betwixt them and us, ſo they ſuſtained very little loſs by it.

Truly ſince the great Hail in the Land of *Egypt*, we do not hear that the like hath been ſeen for Thunder, Hail, and Fire mingled with it, flaſhing upon the Ground, as it appeared to many that beheld it, and came with ſuch a heideous Noiſe, that cannot be expreſs'd, betwixt the Hail and Wind, its violence was great, being in ſuch abundance, that it lay in ſome places three quarters of a Yard deep, and beat up the Ground, and drove it on heaps in ſome places, and after it, followed a great Damp or Miſt, with a very offenſive ſmell; but we deſire to give Glory and Thanks to Almighty God, that ſpared our Lives and the Lives of our Cattle, when it had been ſo eaſie a thing to deſtroy us, when ſtronger things were deſtroyed, but that he pleaſed to give a Commiſſion to its ſtrong Force, and no further to proceed.

And we humbly pray God, that we who have ſeen and felt his mighty Power, and all others, who only hear of this Relation, may make a right improvemen of it, to the Glory of Almighty God and our own ſouls good.

And we whoſe Names are hereunto ſubſcribed do humbly conclude, that all our loſſes in the afore-mentioned particulars, within the Precincts of *Alvanley*, will amount unto the Sum of ſeveral 1000 *l.* and upwards, unleſs God in his infinite Mercy find out a way for our Relief; but it pittys our hearts moſt of all, for our poor Widows and Fatherleſs, whoſe whole years profits are deſtroyed.

We whoſe Names are hereunto ſubſcribed, ſhall be ready to atteſt what is here Written for certain Truths and no feigned things.

John Turner, Miniſter at *Alvandley*
John Clarke, School-maſter
Richard Walker, Clerk at the Chappel

Samuel Gerrard
Jeremiah Leech
George Whitley
Richard Simcock
John Baſſnet.
John Aſhbrooke
Samuel Leech
Robert Simcock
John Hayes

John Buſhell, *of the Pariſh of* Allhallows the Wall, London, *knows very well the perſons who ſent this Letter, as likewiſe ſome of the perſons above-named, and do believe this Relation to be very true, having received a Letter from another perſon to the ſame Effect.*

John Buſhell.

I William Watts *of the ſaid Pariſh of* Allhallows in the Wall, *do know very well, the perſon that ſent the above-written Letter, and doth really believe the above-written Relation to be true.*

William Watts

I William Johnſon *of* London, *Notary Publique, do Certifie that I do know, not only the ſaid perſon that ſent the ſaid Letter, but alſo ſeveral other of the perſons Inhabitants there, and that I believe the above Relation to be aſſuredly true, and no falſe thing, I having ſeen a Letter ſometime ſince to that Effect.*

William Johnſon.

This may be Printed, R P. July *the* 28th 1687.

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